

**PARKS, SPORTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
of the  
Suffolk County Legislature**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, 11787, on **June 6, 2002**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Ginny Fields - Chairperson  
Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Angie Carpenter  
Legislator Brian Foley  
Legislator William Lindsay

**Also in Attendance:**

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature  
Mary Skiber - Aide to Legislator Fields  
Clark Gavin - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna  
Sean Clancy - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Peter Scully - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks  
Greg Lauri - Director/Division of Sports & Recreation - Parks Dept  
Denise Speizio - Suffolk County Parks Department  
Lenora Daniel - New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association  
John Mantione - New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association  
Louis Medina - Boys & Girls Club/CYS  
Virginia Connolly - Boys & Girls Club/CYS  
J. Jioni Palmer - Newsday  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

---

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:09 P.M.\*)

(\*\*NOTE: Pages 1-14 were transcribed from notes  
only due to defect in audio tape\*\*)

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Good afternoon. We're going to begin the Parks Committee meeting and we will lead with a Pledge of Allegiance led off -- led by Legislator Lindsay.

## Salutation

Good afternoon. We have two cards so we'll begin with the two cards and perhaps you want to come up together. Linora Daniel from New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association and John Mantione from New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association.

LEG. ALDEN:

Brian, Bill and I apologize for not wearing our yellow blazers, I forgot.

LEG. CARPENTER:

When you're female you can worry about it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

When you speak into the microphone you have to speak very closely.

MR. MANTIONE:

And turn it on. Again, good afternoon. My name is John Mantione and I'm here to speak about Resolution 1587. I represent the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association. I just have a brief statement.

The Trade Association has been formed and is structured to promote the sport of recreational fishing, especially to children. We believe that children become conservation minded and develop an awareness of the environment through the activity of fishing. With this in mind, we have proposed the creation of a children's fishing park. An ideal location for this project is a pond just across from old ranger's station at Southaven County Park. The pond, currently not designated for any particular purpose, would be stocked with trout. These easily caught fish would go a long way in promoting the virtues of recreational fishing while enhancing the conservation ethic.

Several organizations and agencies would benefit from this children's fishing pond. New York State DEC currently holds a series of seminars that promote fishing and conservation to children, they hold seminars at Hempstead and Bellmont Lake and they're looking for a new site further east, Southaven County Park would be an ideal location. Private organizations such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America who always promote fishing and conservation in addition to issuing a fishing merit badge may also benefit from this project.

Over the past several years we have installed six fishing platforms around the parimeter of the pond and we're now awaiting specifications to construct and install a handicapped platform. We know there's a requirement for necessary DEC approval on this and we have been in

permit process.

Our primary purpose here is the restoration of the old Trout Hatchery. With the assistance of several Boy Scouts and an Eagle Scout candidate at the time, Anthony Lepre, the cement holding pools were cleaned of debris and unwanted vegetation. This was accomplished in 1999; unfortunately, without proper maintenance, the area became quickly overgrown and Phase I would need to be repeated. Nonetheless, Anthony proudly received his Eagle Scout status for his commitment to this endeavor and Anthony enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and currently serves our country. I wish I could attribute this young man's dedication to consequential fishing along, however I'm sure his parents were a major fact in Anthony's upbringing.

We now seek assistance of Suffolk County to revitalize this project. Your support, this is an incredible task which cannot be accomplished alone. With the support of our partners, interest groups and Legislators, this program will go a long way in promoting the virtues of recreational fishing while enhancing the conservation ethic for our children.

Phase II would be, again, a general clean-up of the holding tanks and increase the water flow to the pond. It also includes the Fish Hatchery Program which is purchasing and implementation of fish modules to protect the fishery habitat. Retapping of the springs to maintain water flow and oxygenate the pond. A hatchery fence would prevent loss from predation and provide security and safety. We request that there also be funds available for the handicapped access to the pond.

What will benefit from this is the events, the curriculum and the maintenance program, there would be a Fish Maintenance Program to maintain the ongoing fish stock and replenishment to the pond, a Rod and Reel Loaner Program to acquire and supply ample fishing tackle to schools, libraries and to the less fortunate. The class program schedule would create educational packages for schools, libraries and other organizations and the curriculum could possibly be based on the American Sportfishing Associations National Theme of "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs." There's also kids events which would establish healthy fishing competition to increase interests and to teach proper angling ethics.

The hatchery restoration would also serve as an educational attraction to park visitors as well as a potential hands-on research facility for young scientist studying fresh water pond ecology. Also, this endeavor will also serve as a restoration project restoring part of Long Island history.

(\*Legislator Towle entered the meeting at 1:15 P.M.\*)

Before closing, and since this is part of National Fishing and Boating Week, I would like to take the opportunity to invite you all down to the Fourth Annual Teach a Kid to Fish Program at Southaven County Park on Saturday, June 8th between 10 and 12 and 1 and 3. This event is sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the New York Fishing Tackle Trade

3

---

Association, New York Sportsfishing Federation and the Long Island Beach Buggy Association, Inc. Last year's event was a tremendous success and hopefully this year's event will be even better.

I have here some copies of the project that the Eagle Scout, Anthony, did in 1999. Thank you for this time.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Just tell me exactly what it is that you're asking for in 1587.

MR. MANTIONE:

I believe the resolution is to transfer \$15,000 to the parks for the revitalization of the hatchery to do the construction of the fencing, to do a platform so that visitors can view the hatchery area. You know, there may be some additional stocking and supplying some of the amenities for it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The sponsor has arrived and maybe we can hear from him about this resolution also.

LEG. TOWLE:

Thank you, Legislator Fields. I appreciate the invite to come down today, I apologize for being late. John was very modest in the work that they have done over at Southaven Park. And the event that they host this week, I would encourage all of you to go if you've got an opportunity, they had an enormous turnout last year. Unfortunately, officially on the record, I'm going to apologize for not being there this year, it's actually the day of my son's birthday so clearly I'll be sleeping at Southaven Park if I don't make that birthday.

This \$15,000 unfortunately has been kicking around for way too long and we'd like to wrap up that project. There were originally -- they being the New York State Fishing and Tackle Trade Association had been given the money, there was some kind of snafu with a contract or possibly with transferring the money to them. Last year Legislator Alden was gracious enough to allow me to tag on to a resolution that he was doing for some money his district was going to lose. This \$15,000 is not being spent to benefit anyone except the residents of Suffolk County in one of our own park facilities. And clearly, the program over at Southaven Park has just been extremely successful and as you can look through the packet, I'm not sure if there's any photos

in here, but --

MR. MANTIONE:

There are a couple in the back.

LEG. ALDEN:

Photos of you, Fred.

LEG. TOWLE:

Yeah, actually there probably were a couple of a photos of me unfortunatley; a few pounds lighter, too, Legislator Alden, we can't forget to mention that. But in any event, you know, it really is a positive project and it really is amazing that we let this facility, you know, stay in the condition it was prior to the improvements that

4

---

were done by all the organizations and by the Eagle Scouts. For all the years that I've gone to Southaven Park, I didn't even know we had a fish hatchery there. And really, you know, you've got to see the kids faces, especially when you read about what we have to offer at Southaven Park, I just think it's a positive thing. And I'd urge the committee to move the resolution if they would.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. Commissioner Scully?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I don't have this resolution.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is it a Budget resolution; whose prime?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

You want me to give you a copy of it?

LEG. CARPENTER:

It's on one that was handed out today, it wasn't on mine either, it's on two-sided sheet on the back.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And it's prime in Budget.

MR. MANTIONE:

Legislator Fields, may I just say something else? I just want to point to the young lady to my right is Lenora Daniel, she's our Outdoor Educator and she's been assigned to take on this project to

work out a curriculum with the local schools.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I was going to go to her after we heard some comments from the Commissioner but, Lenora, if you would like to speak and then we will go to the Commissioner.

MS. DANTEL:

I'll just be very brief. I'm the Outdoor Educator for the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association, Inc., and I'm the Project Coordinator for the Support Fishing Education Center. Once again, I want to encourage everybody to come down this Saturday if you have the opportunity and get to see what a wonderful asset Southaven County Park is. The potential with a hatchery is just so great for educating children about the outdoors, I mean, there's a lot we can take from that with fish development and environmentalism and just a real ability to educate and help instill conservation efforts in children. And that's basically it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Commissioner, do you have any problem with this legislation?

5

---

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

Well, no. As you know, we have a good working relationship with NFTA. Mr. Mantione is my most recent appointment to the Sportsmen's Advisory Committee and we look forward to working with him on the project.

Just to make sure you understand what the resolution would do, it would transfer any funds for NFTA to do restoration and I guess that would involve contract process assuming that moves forward, we will get on that right away.

LEG. FOLEY:

I share Legislator Towle and Commissioner Scully's views of NFTA, they have done a wonderful job in years past and I know they will in the future and this is just an indication of such. In order to get the job done, would it be advisable to have the monies transferred to the Parks Department and they can work with NFTA to do it or is the most expeditious approach for giving the monies to NFTA? As we all know, one of the issues has to do with the County Attorney's Office in putting together the contract. Was a thought given that it would be the most expeditious way to have NFTA work on the plan or better to get to work with NFTA, does it not make a difference?

LEG. TOWLE:

If the Chair would allow me to answer the question from my perspective. First of all, as I looked through John's package and I was reminded of the day that this was going back to 1999, the reality



is I think originally we did try to do it internally, one of the problems was putting it out to bid. John obviously New York State Fishing Trade and Tackle Association are not held up to the same standards we would be. Obviously it would be a contract which is common and there is no reason that contract are taking from as long as they are and Legislator Fields and I had extensive conversations about that last night. And quite honestly, as far as I'm concerned, the sooner the resolution can be approved the sooner we can ponder how long it takes the Department of Law to deal with these contracts. The time that it take for this type of stuff is ridiculous when we're talking about \$15,000 and right now we're clearly not at that peek. As you and I both know, as Legislators we're in the middle of the year, it's clearly lessened at this point and there is no reason that it is taking five, six, seven, eight, 12 months to do basic contracts. And obviously the Parks Department has been supportive of this and continues to be supportive of this which is a benefit of residents of all of Suffolk County. It's not like NFTA is doing their own project, it's one of our facilities. Thank you.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
I think also the Commissioner and I have been speaking over the last couple of days because of some grave problems in the Parks Department trying to get reimbursement for grants. And a statement that the Commissioner said this morning, he wasn't sure that grants should go through the Parks Department because of the inability to get the process through in a timely fashion. I think this may be I guess -- well, I'll ask you, Commissioner.

6

---

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
I'm sorry. What was the question?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
The question that Legislator --

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
With respect to the contract process. Well, all I can say is that we currently service about 70 of the Legislative grants through our department, each one involves an individual contract and we do find it's a very time consuming process. This one is singular and it -- we will tackle it as as soon as it is enacted. To state real clearly what I did say to you with regard to your series of concerns to you and the way which your interaction with my office has -- members of my staff have turned out is a grave concern. What I did say to you this morning in the end examine the process you may find that administering those contracts through the Parks Department might not be the best way

to go about it. But, you know, we have that responsibility now so my job now is to view the way in which we do that.

And with respect to this particular project, I don't know how far NFTA has gone in terms of contract plan for the hatchery, exactly how they would expend money, but you can rest assured that if the legislation moves forward and is signed we will focus on it immediately. As Legislator Towle says, the issue has been kicking around since before I was the Commissioner, we're a little bit sensitive to the needs and trying to move forward. I too was surprised to learn of the hatchery and John has showed me the facility and everything that it is, we may have to pull Bud Corwin out of retirement to get it back up, I'm sure he was one of people to get it in place originally and maintain it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:  
I am going to address this spot to the sponsor. Is there a plan for the \$15,000 to be spent?

LEG. TOWLE:  
There has been.

LEG. ALDEN:  
That's good.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Commissioner, do you have a Grants Coordinator in your department?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
We have a funded position as a grants writer, a vacancy in the department, it's not filled at this time.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Have you put a request to fill that position?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
We have approved a hiring plan for those which was required of each

---

department so to ensure that the County can meet its turnover savings requirement and grant writer either September 1st or October 1st.

LEG. TOWLE:  
If my recollection serves me correctly, didn't this part of -- actually Counsel is back in the room. Counsel, a question; didn't part of the turnover savings with regard to filling the position within the County budget, particularly those that generate revenue for



the County, get preferences over other positions?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, it's not statutory, it's conceptable. I know there was one year we were going to make that part of the statute codify it, that would be one of the factors to give it a higher priority. It's not currently written in law, it's just something that conceptually makes sense.

LEG. TOWLE:

Clearly, from my point of view it would seem to make sense to me. Particularly in your department, of all our departments which is probably the most eligible for all types of grants, that person could be capable of doing two things, one overseeing these contracts and also trying to apply for new money which clearly would deal with other problems that we have to deal with as lawmakers. I would ask you -- obviously I don't want to say you are too new to the block, but you are obviously new to the block and dealing with multiple problems, this one of which is two years old, I would ask you to give some thoughts to that grants position.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

Not to steel your thunder, you can rest assured the Chair of the committee has been pressuring us to do just that.

LEG. TOWLE:

I told her I had full confidence in her decision to put the person out in my district.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I have a whole office, desk, computer and an empty room.

LEG. TOWLE:

I will throw in a car.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can you tell me when you're going to fill that position?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

It would be the result of any honest estimate. I haven't submitted the necessary SCIN forms.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

That's what I was going to ask, when will you submit the SCIN form?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

I haven't made the decision but if you would provide me the luxury of a week to sit down and look at the overall vacancies in the budget and

---

see whether or not I can reconfigure the hiring plan, I would appreciate seven days to give you an answer that we could rely on.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Does anyone else have anything to say? John, I have had an experience, many experiences with your organization Casting for Recovery with you and Lenora, I have gone to Teach a Kid to Fish Program last summer and I know that I introduced you to the Girl Scouts of America, Girl Scouts U.S.A, and you have begun teaching them how to fish. Are you involved in anything else?

LEG. TOWLE:

He has no life, I will attest to that.

MR. MANTIONE:

No, I am not allowed. We are involved in fishery management projects as well as habitat enhancement marine resources, an ecotourism-based industry and we all look at Long Island it's an island, water is very important. We are here to make the best of it and our parks are very, very important.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Let me ask a question. If we pass the bill today, what's the process, is it that NFTA has to do the work and get reimbursed; how is that process going to unfold?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

I think that that probably is a likely scenario. What we would try to do is first get contracts in place so that we didn't have the contracts to deal with. My understanding is in a situation like this at this point equally the work is undertaken and reimbursement is provided by the County.

LEG. TOWLE:

I hate to do this. Actually, my understanding is a little different respect, Commissioner, based on so much of the contingency funds most of the groups are provided with some firsts to the money. I think after the first round of contingency monies that we had used because of that of the groups that we have provided money to and I think the standard average is about 25% from my perspective the Budget Committee. They tabled the bill and I have asked him to call Legislator Caracciolo's Office to ask the Budget Committee to convene on Tuesday to move this bill out and I will ask to lobby the four Legislators that sit on the committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

I was actually taken off that committee.

LEG. TOWLE:

I'm shocked and appalled and if they would pass the bill within a few weeks the County Executive would sign the bill some time at the beginning of July. The Commissioner could request a contract from them to take any more than 30 days. I am going to watch that very carefully and hopefully some time mid July, August the first check can be released in part of the money so that you can move forward with

9

---

this program. That's what I would like to see happen; anything less is unacceptable from my perspective.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The only problem that I have here is that I need to have Commissioner Scully's promise I guess that with the Casting for Recovery obviously you know they took out a loan to pay the group and that was done last summer and they have not been paid and defaulted on the loan because the County has not reimbursed them. So that you could sit down and have a meeting with John and whomever else at the County Attorney's Office, tell them exactly what they can expect, what timing, if they have to lay out money when they will be reimbursed.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

We can have that type of meeting prior to enactment of legislation if you think that would be helpful.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But it's not just that it's the contract with the County Attorney's Office, we need to have coordination here that they're not going to be left holding the bag in the default for something else that they have promised their volunteers and doing this work.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

I understand what the objective is.

LEG. TOWLE:

As I offered on the phone last night, I would be happy to amend the bill to include any other program in which we have shorted an organization since it's the same organization we have involved in one resolution and ask the County Executive's representative to be aware and maybe pass on to Ms. DeMarzo that we may be asking for a CN to do this. If we amend the bill we would not be able to vote on it.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair? I'm fully supportive of the resolution and I would also hope that we can get the Budget Committee to convene in order to report it out. Legislator Towle's remarks were right on target. After first round of contingent monies a number of agencies fund these project and so the monies are whether it's 25% or 50% a substantial amount of money was, for lack of a better word, given upfront to the

organizations. As long as they kept, you know, good records on what they have purchased and kept all those things in good order they were able to get some of the money up front. I think that's --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I believe it's only a small percentage.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is it 25%?

LEG. TOWLE:

That's my understanding from the Comptroller's office, 25%.

LEG. FOLEY:

Would that be enough to start with?

10

---

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'm just concerned that they're going to get stuck laying out money that the County is not going to reimburse them in a timely fashion. It hasn't even been fixed yet for Casting for Recovery. What's the process when are they going to get paid back, how is the process going to move?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I just wanted to add that it's very disturbing that it takes us this long to get people the money that's been approved by this Legislature and signed by the County Executive if the process is that somehow we can possibly encourage organizations like yourself to be involved in the process of serving our citizens. It's just unacceptable.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. I'm going to make a motion to take this out of order.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed. I will make a motion to approve.

1587-02 - Amending the 2002 Operating Budget transferring funds for the New York State Fishing and Tackle Trade Association (Towle).

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We have a second. All in favor? Opposed? Any objection to that? Okay, it's approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

MR. MANTIONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I would ask that we have a meeting, maybe Legislator Towle, yourself, Commissioner and someone from the County Attorney's Office to make sure this doesn't happen again.

LEG. TOWLE:

Or to have the County Attorney here at the next committee meeting.

LEG. FOLEY:

Good luck.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

That may not be a bad idea.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I would like to add my name as a cosponsor.

LEG. FOLEY:

Cosponsor.

11

---

LEG. ALDEN:

Cosponsor.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Everyone on the committee as cosponsor. Lou Medina.

MR. MEDINA:

I want to applaud you for instituting and starting the process. I brought along -- every community based organization should have a board member like Virginia Connolly. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing code of conduct for YCS as well as local little leagues. I am going to turn it over to her.

MS. CONNOLLY:

Good afternoon. As Lou says, we really do thank you for instituting and trying to make it policy in this County. The way that this came about for our organization was through the concern of parents. We put together -- I did a tremendous amount of research on codes of conduct, sportsmanship, how it gets applied and enforced and we put together an apple pie and ice cream, ten bullet codes of appropriate levels of conduct for coaches and for players. We didn't address revenue as well as baseball league all employ revenue that are professional and we didn't feel it was necessary to address them.

One of the interesting facts that I discovered in my research study taken by the State University of Michigan, over 70% of over 20 million children will quit before the age of 13 or 15, and the number one reason cited by both the boys and the girls is it's just not fun any, more than very highly to the conduct of the people that are supervising these leagues, managing the teams, coaching. We started to do this I believe it was the spring of 2000, we were contacted by -- through a board member of ours that also serves on local baseball leagues to help them establish their own code of conduct and we wrote this up, made a presentation, included a video that a personal friend of mine put together regarding the issues of parental rage. This was well before the incident of the Hockey Dad.

If I could digress for just a second and give you a little bit of my own background, why this has become such impassioned plea of mine. I grew up in 28 years Stonehill, Massachusetts which is the town next to Reading. I know these people, I know both of the families, my mother is friends with both of the wives of these families. The widow -- one is a widow to the prison system and one a widow to death and she related to me her experience with 13 of her friends because they didn't know what side to sit on. This was an incident that shouldn't have happened but it affected an entire community and the Hockey U.S.A. Ring where these kids were practicing has also a tremendous amount of revenue, people afraid to send their kids to hockey practice. I read the article in Newsday. I can understand the concern on behalf of not wanting to step on anyone's First Amendment rights, but I don't think that's what we're looking to do. I don't think that's what you're looking to do.

The question of legislative behavior, we do that now and we call them crimes if it's not a crime to swear and yell at six year olds for missing a pitch it should be, that's my personal opinion. I don't

---

think that represents my board's opinion. I don't know how else to describe the feeling that you have when you see kids that play in our leagues competitive, second and third, all coaches and parents, they all sign an agreement that they will abide by this conduct. We have ramifications that are applied and we have those ramifications grand from year to year; if they have one violation that violation stays with them for the next year. Kids should be able to just have fun and if the County can in some way insure that for them by letting people know that drugs and alcohol and tobacco use in front of children is not allowed when they're on County property and if there's going to try to access County funds to run their leagues, then they have to apply certain behavior. We support you in anything we can do to help you along in that process.



**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I appreciate you coming here today. I will tell you we had one of the authors of the Newsday article and we thank you for bringing it out into the public. I have received phone calls and from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles, California and a couple of other different places, New York City and Long Island. This is a raw nerve that we have opened up. And when you talk about the First Amendment, I think we need to look at sexual harassment then, you know, where do you hold the line on allowing them to say anything that they want to? This is not a violation of First Amendment at all, it's about having a code of ethic and rulings and regulations that people should follow. And in the professional leagues, if a basketball player curses at a ref or baseball player curses at an umpire, the umpire sends them out of the game. It is not violation of their First Amendment. The people probably who are objecting to that should be looking at that and maybe those are the people who are doing the kinds of thing we want stopped from this.

**MS. CONNOLLY:**

The team also has the right to fine those players, they do suffer financial loss as well. One of the things that I found, the sports editors at MSNBC put together this three minute videotape for us.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you have that video?

**MS. CONNOLLY:**

Yes, I can get it. One of the episodes that they taped was in Florida they had a parent that attacked an umpire in the hallway of the locker room after a game, head-butted this guy, pushed him into a wall and shattered cheek bones. He was never brought up on charges but I believe a civil suit was filed and the umpire won some financial gain from that suit. Jupiter, Florida, that scene instituted a code of conduct and made it mandatory, a one tolerance policy, one strike you were out, kid ejected from the team, you they sent you on your way. Any type of violent behavior on their field decreased in 34 that year before they I want to nine the year to none in the three years that followed. So they do work. The majority of -- at least in the three individual communities where we levy and your kids play. I have been a parent for 12 years, my kids have been playing organized sports, the vast majority of parents and coaches do keep their own behavior in check, they do understand the example of associating with you. There

---

have been isolated incidences here and there, sometimes people need gentle reminders that they have to practice what they preach.

CYS sponsors youth summit and this past spring we had 423 children attend two day functions. On the second day we had a presentation

made by a young lady that attended one of six grade elementary classes and she developed a presentation show and you saw her delivering this speech that I invited her to speak and part of her speech included a passage that says, "Watch your thoughts because they become your words, and watch your words because they become your actions; watch your actions, they will become habit and watch your habits for they're your character." We need to watch what we think before our children start to act on it. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just had a couple of questions on one thing. I would like to just ask first the survey that found X number of kids quit and just stated it just wasn't fun anymore, is that all they said or did they actually pinpoint through questions that were answered what some of the other reasons why, the reasons it wasn't fun anymore?

MS. CONNOLLY:

Because they're getting screamed at.

LEG. ALDEN:

The answer to your question of, "It's not fun, we're getting screamed at," that's why that huge number quit?

MS. CONNOLLY:

Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

The other thing you mentioned, too, drug use, drug use on any County property is irrelevant in Suffolk County that's another crime. Right now in a lot of instances an open container is a crime also. I don't know if you want to call it a violation or a crime, laws that protect people from being subjected to that type of stuff.

MS. CONNOLLY:

Includes the use of tobacco.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, that's real good too. The other thing that struck me as a little bit -- I'm not sure about the cause where the parent attacked the umpire, that's a crime also and I'm surprised that in almost any jurisdiction that I can think of assault is at least a crime, not just a violation.

MS. CONNOLLY:

I don't believe that I ever read any follow up to that particular case that stated that if he attacked the umpire, the umpire was not brought up on any criminal charges.

---

LEG. ALDEN:

To me it's odd. If I was that umpire the first thing I'm going to do is call 911.

MS. CONNOLLY:

Right, he did it right out in the locker room security camera on the fields.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, going back to what you people have done, instituted your own code of conduct and just added to them. What would you envision Suffolk County being able to accomplish in furtherance of what your goals are if we enact some kind of law like this? And be specific to your group.

MS. CONNOLLY:

I think that, as I said, to remind people that everything that they do they teach and all actions of violence begin with a thought. Every one of them, they start with a thought and they lead to a word and words get acted on. I think if you put a policy like this in place for the use of County parks, it keeps people -- it keeps their perspective in check and lets them know that they're forewarned. As competitive as they might be, there's still children out on that field. The sport for this country and one of the founding factors that leads this country is organized sports the incidents that is organized sports have the way we approach is huge, very far reaching. As the Chairwoman said, professional leagues, they have certain rules in place that if you mouth off to umpire you will pay a price, you will pay financial price and be ejected from a game, but none of those rules apply to spectators. And I have seen it, I had to apply a lot of this code to myself. I have been a rapid Boston Celtics fan since the day I was born, I have been known to scream to my kids, "What's the matter with you, I need to watch that"; I can't do that in front of my children, I can't make them afraid to have me go to one of their games. That's what we do, by the time they're 13 they know that, they know that they're being held up to a certain set of performance standards that maybe some of them can't reach. Not every kid has the same willful of competitiveness as every other kid. I think that if we were to legislate the type of acceptable behavior that we allow to happen in front of our children, we would be sending them a powerful message. I don't think it's empowering to teach competitive play and not teach good sportsmanship, I don't know why they have to be separate issues.

LEG. ALDEN:

Getting back to my question now what you have done in minor league. The umpires are excluded but you require that -- or you've got a code

of conduct for the players, the managers and the coaches and the spectators. What above that would you feel is going to be accomplished by Suffolk County enacting a law?

MS. CONNOLLY:

We're only one organization.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So you feel that what you've done is really what should be done

15

---

and now we should extend that across the whole County.

MS. CONNOLLY:

I think that there could be minimum requirements for an organization that would like to apply for permit use of County parks or funding for their leagues, but they should be given a certain latitude in developing their own code of conduct. We call ours a code of conduct, other people may call it a code of ethics. I'm sure that there would be -- from sport to sport certain things may change.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually -- and I've been involved in sports all my life, even on a professional level a little bit. In every sport that I know and that I participated in you have a code of conduct and you do have that -- there's a prerogative as far as if it's a baseball game. When I was in Section 11 playing in high school, the umpire, if there was activity in the stands, could actually forfeit the game to the opposite team if they could identify that it was, you know, certain fans from a certain school. In college the same thing, the umpires had that ability to go and forfeit the game, to clear the stadium or clear the stands on any, whether we played on a municipal field or we played on a college field. The same is true in a professional arena in a baseball park, whether it's a municipal stadium or whether it's private owned they have a code of conduct, if you don't follow that people can be arrested in a park or they can be ejected from the game, it states it on the ticket usually. You know, so whether it's a basketball game, football game, soccer or anything like that, if you don't follow the certain rules that are laid down you can be ejected from the stadium. Golf tournaments prime example. The U.S. Open is now going to be held over in Bethpage; if you don't follow the rules you can be ejected from that park, you can be arrested in Bethpage Park or even trying to get into Bethpage Park.

So what I'm concerned with, though, is when you people as far as people that are running the league, you have the local concerns, you have the local control over it, you have the ability to extract the ultimate price. You can tell the child, "Your parents didn't behave, you're out." When you take it up another notch, whether it's to the

town level, the County level or the State level, you're actually going to lose some of the things that you wanted to see because you wanted it to be specific to your organization. When we go and do it, it's got to be a blanket thing that goes at a different level, it's not going to be specific to the organization that's actually going in there and running it. So that would be one of my concerns, that we're going to take it up a little bit further than where the control actually should lay, and that should be in the organization. Whether it's a league or whether it's a broader organization, something of that nature, that's where the enforcement power, that's where the adjudication of any type of action should be. That's also where the people that are going to be governed by this, they should be governed by their own thoughts and their own ideas, not by me who thinks that I don't like the idea that you're going to go and sneeze out on the field, you know, so I would have had you ejected.

16

---

MS. CONNOLLY:

I don't think that it should be up to the County Legislature to employ, you know, the character police to go and make sure that every ball field has a code of conduct that's being implemented. I do believe it should be up to the league officials that are running that. I think that what we are in support of is that the County would insist that all leagues that are going to use this parkland do have a code of conduct, that it is implementable and it is abided by. We have, as I say, on ours, we have a very clear set of repercussions, I guess, for lack of a better term, and we enforce that, that's up to us.

LEG. ALDEN:

You like the idea of establishing the rules yourself and policing yourself on it, I like that idea also. But that's one of the concerns that I would have.

MS. CONNOLLY:

But that in order for them to have their permit for the land to be used, for the parkland to be used, or if they are applying for any kind of County funding to support their league, that they should be able to prove to you that they have a code of conduct, that it is one that's implemented by their league and that they do --

LEG. ALDEN:

Not showing up in the papers with parents brawling on the field --

MS. CONNOLLY:

That's right.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- and that's how they police it.

MS. CONNOLLY:

That's right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks.

MS. CONNOLLY:

That they should have it implementable and they should have a list of consequences. When we were asked by one of our local baseball clubs to help them develop their code of conduct and we did that, we made their presentations, we provided them with their ten bullet codes that were customized. The code of conduct that we developed for CYS really started off as a very generic program that could be offered as a community service because that's what we do to anybody that needed it, and that we would be willing to work with them and figure out what their code of ethics committee really wanted to address and how they wanted to address it. We did this for this particular baseball league and that was the end of our role in what we provided to them. It was brought to our attention at the end of that first season that they lost a very large portion of their board members because the parents who did get the presentation -- we delivered that presentation, they did sign-off on the code of conduct, they all agreed to abide by it, and when push came to shove literally it was not enforced because rather than having a clear-cut set of consequential actions that would

17

---

be taken, this league asked that we write it in a way that left the determination of what would be done if someone infringed upon the code left up to their board of directors and that was certainly their prerogative to choose that way to handle their situations. And when certain coaches or managers or parents issued complaints, it went through the hierarchy and by the time it got to the board level it was just simply dismissed. So a number of their code of ethics committee members that were also board members resigned. They felt, you know, what's the point of having a code of conduct if you're not going to enforce it. So there was a bit of a shake up there and when I spoke to that's board president later on before the beginning of their second season, I told him how we had applied it in our junior leagues, we had basketball and roller hockey at the time, and I told him that we would be more than willing to share our level of consequential behaviors to their code of conduct policy and he could submit that to his code of ethics. I haven't heard how their league is performing so far this year, but it at least gave them more of a specific way to enforce it, it wasn't left up to one person to make a decision and it wasn't so easily dismissed the second time around. And being that that was our first run out of the gate, it was a good learning experience for us, too.

LEG. ALDEN:



As a final conduct -- comment, I'm not totally familiar personally with what you've done over at your leagues and things like that, but from the sounds of it you've really gone way above and beyond what a lot of other people have done and I want to commend you on your efforts.

MS. CONNOLLY:

Thank you.

MR. MEDINA:

I just want -- I'm sorry. I just want to make a final comment from CYS. This has been a really good experience for us in terms of interacting with the community and really looking at what affects -- the bottom line is what affects our young people's behavior in an athletic type of environment. It's supposed to be safe, it's supposed to be fun and it's supposed to be a learning experience. And many, many times, as you may or may not know, parents are the ones who really kind of, you know, "You didn't throw the ball right or the umpire didn't call the right strike or ball," and it gets kind of not fun as a coach. I'll give you an example. I went to -- my brother is a coach in Nassau County and he was coaching and he asked me to coach first base. He started to yell at the kids and I said, "You know what, I gotta go." I walked off the field because as far as I'm concerned, he didn't need to be yelling at the kids. The kids were having fun, they're playing ball and I don't want to be a part of that. As a parent, as a coach, I want to be involved with keeping kids safe and not putting them in an abusive situation which happens a lot in athletic competition.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The impetus came from you on this, but it also came from me and the fact that my husband has coached soccer and baseball. And I sat on the side lines and in the stands listening to the parents stand on the

18

---

fence and scream at their children, scream at other children, scream at the umpire, scream at the coach or, you know, anybody they could because they weren't happy with the result of either a child's performance or the fact that they may have lost the game.

So I think this is something that we in the Legislature have the ability to at least lead by example, Suffolk County has done it many times with many other bills. And if it's going to be that we ask a league to sign a code of conduct before we a lot any grant money that we might be able to offer them or that we ask them to sign a code of conduct if they're going to use our fields, I don't think that that's something that's intolerable. And I believe that all the people who want to use them, especially since fields are at a premium and there are people waiting right down the bend to use it if a team is -- if a

league is off of it, I think they probably will conduct themselves in more lady like and gentlemen like manner.

So I thank you for coming and I want to talk to you before you leave.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Madam Chairwoman, could I just say something before you leave? First of all, I too would commend what you did with your individual league. I was a manager of little league for a dozen years or more of youth athletics, but I really believe where the enforcement belongs is with the individual league. I'm not willing to take the power away from the umpires or the parents that manage the teams, I just don't think that that's, you know, appropriate for us to be dictating to you how to run your individual youth organizations.

I know over the years as a manager, I wouldn't tolerate my parents interfering with my coaching, I made it very clear to them. I see umpires stop games like Legislator Alden talked about because of, you know, abuse of fans or something like that. I think it can be done but I think it has to be done by you with the individual leagues.

MS. CONNOLLY:

I agree with that. I think that one of the reasons that we are supporting this and that we do support the policing of it I guess, for lack of a better term, to be at the individual league level is for the proactivation of it. We started this well before the hockey Dad incident, as I say. We don't need to wait until we have one of them to say, "Oh geez, you know, look at that, we really should have done something about these angry parents." As I say, I think that the vast majority of people whose children play in these sports leagues, there's a huge commitment, I know this from a parental perspective. I mean, the amount of time and the degree of time engineering that you earn in just trying to get your kid to six different practices a week and make sure they're at the game on time and, you know, car pooling with other parents and all of what goes in to having your kid play in an organized sports league, parents do realize that their contribution is huge and that their behavior on the field is part of that contribution. I think the vast majority of them do keep their own perspectives in check and it is a minority of the parents and the coaches that take that behavior and go over the top. But that minority, like everything else, you know, it's always the negative aspects of our society that get the most attention and it's not the

-----  
positive ones. There aren't articles in Newsday, with all due respect, about, you know, parents behaving great, that doesn't get front page news, but when one parent beats the tar out of another parent at a hockey practice -- I mean, that wasn't even a game, that was just a practice -- and the guy dies, that's front page news. And now

everybody in Massachusetts is picking up their codes of conduct and calling character counts and getting the Arizona Sports Accord and applying it and implementing it and they're all panic stricken and they're removing their kids from playing and they're just going back to neighborhood games out in the driveway. We really want to be proactive on this and we want to help you do that too.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, I'm going to be tabling this today just to make some changes in some of the recommendations that we had so that perhaps some people will feel more apt to support it. But I really appreciate it and I'd like to continue working with both of you, you know, in finding something that's going to help all of our kids in Suffolk County and perhaps everywhere.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Madam Chair, just one more comment. To beat someone senseless is assault, to kill somebody is a crime, but like Legislator Alden pointed out, you know, just ride on the Long Island Expressway and you'll see road rage every day, it's wrong, most of the time it's a violation of law. A code of conduct isn't going to prevent -- you know, it's still a crime to beat somebody or to kill somebody and that supersedes any code of conduct, you know. I --

**MS. CONNOLLY:**

In the case in Redding, that was -- all that we heard about, all that the masses across the country heard about was that one episode that resulted in the gentleman's death. What you didn't hear about was the escalating incidences between several parents on this team that didn't get along because they all thought their kids should be the star and the kid wasn't getting enough playing time and, you know, all of this other stuff. It wasn't the escalation of the words, it was the thought that my kid's best and should be getting more time than anybody else's that turned into a word, that turned into an angry word and those angry words were exchanged over a period of two full seasons and it culminated in the death of this man in front of his three small children; those kids are going to be scarred forever. What did they learn? And where they started that learning process was in listening to their parents yelling at each other; because the first punch was every thrown there was an exchange of angry words. And having a code of conduct in an individual league, having the County say, "We'd love for you to play ball on our fields, show us your code of conduct and how are you going to implement that. Great, here you go, here's the keys to the kingdom, knock yourself out", would be a way maybe for people to watch their words before they become actions. Before you teach a kid how to be angry in a name of catching a ball, just stop and think about what it is that you're doing. And I think that if that had been applied very early on when the kids are in kindergarten and they -- you know, you're just happy that they're running in the right direction across that field, that's when these codes of conduct are

really going to be the most effective because you set the stage. From

20

---

the very first day that your kid hits that field you know what's expected of you, you know what's expected of you as a volunteer coach. All of our coaches are volunteer parents, everyone one of them, they know what's expected of them from the very first day that they get their teams roster. And that's where it needs -- in my opinion, that's why it needs to start.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Legislator Lindsay, it isn't -- it's not unusual for the County to allow certain uses of certain properties with volunteer agencies and make those agencies sign a contract just stating what the rules and regulations are of the use.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The point of the matter is the individual youth organizations, I believe that what you're trying to do should be left up to them, I don't think we should be legislating that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Do you think, though, that --

LEG. FOLEY:

We're going to table it today anyway.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah. I just wanted to ask Legislator Lindsay, though, do you think that it's okay if they don't have a code of conduct that they should still be able to use our facilities though? Not our code, their code.

LEG. LINDSAY:

First of all, the amount of fields that the County owns is really minute in the scheme of things and youth athletics; we don't that have that many facilities to start off with. They're in great demand, I'm sure the Parks Commission has a process in determining who uses those fields. But again, I don't believe that we should be legislating conduct to the leagues, I believe that's the role of the leagues, it's the role of the umpires or officials once the game starts and I don't think we can remove that power from them.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So then if we have a building that we loan out and we say in the contract that you're not allowed to use alcohol in the building, you don't think we should do that either; isn't that the same?

LEG. LINDSAY:

That isn't the same. I don't necessarily object to encouraging the individual leagues to develop their own rules and regs, how they -- I don't think we should be mandating that on what specifically they should do or should not do behavior wise.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, thank you. Thank you. Greg, did you want to say anything about this?

MR. LAURI:

Hi. My name is Greg Lauri, Director of Sports and Recreation for

21

---

Suffolk County. I happen to agree with a lot that has been said up here already today. I don't know if legislation or I believe that requiring the youth leagues to use our property, we should set some standards and guidelines that they would have to have a code of ethics on file in their organization. And maybe that code of ethics or code of conduct, if they're using County owned property, should be with us at Parks or Sports and Rec, but the administration and the policemen or the enforcement of that needs to be with the people who run the leagues because they're going to be there on a daily basis. It shouldn't be up to us but I think if we require them to have something on file with us, it would benefit everyone involved.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

That's basically what I'm asking for. I appreciate it. Thank you. Anybody else have any questions? Okay. I appreciate everything that you have done and all of your comments and I will be talking to you. Thank you. Okay, the agenda.

#### TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1028-02 (P) - Requiring anti-theft surveillance cameras for County park concessionaires (Caracciolo).

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1276-02 (P) - To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage (Fisher).

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
I again recommend tabling.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1337-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of Smith Point County Park (County Executive).

LEG. ALDEN:  
Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
Second.

22

---

LEG. FOLEY:  
I will second the motion to table. I don't know whether or not the sponsor of the bill wanted to speak on this.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
Legislator Towle, on 1337 regarding funds in connection with the restoration of Smith Point County Park.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes, Legislator Fields. I appreciate being given the opportunity to speak about this resolution. What most people don't know is that Smith Point Park is in Legislator Foley's district but it's obviously located in the community of Shirley, so for some reason I seem to get the bulk of those calls; Legislator Foley and I have been trying to trade that off, that problem off for a while. But in any event, the parking lot is in major need of disrepair and has been for a lengthy period of time. There's some serious flooding and drainage problems, there's grass growing throughout the parking lot, it's cracked up pretty badly, it's not been striped and it's just in major need of repair.

There is a Capital Program for Smith Point that we're upgrading, but regardless of what we do on that plan, whether we move the building, don't move the building, change the layout of the park, the parking lot is in deplorable condition. The discussion was had when we approved a resolution --



LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair, I stand corrected, that's the wrong resolution. The resolution that Legislator Towle is speaking of is 1543. 1337 has to do with a skate park.

LEG. TOWLE:

Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

So we have to wait --

LEG. TOWLE:

Okay, no problem.

LEG. FOLEY:

-- to debate it for 1543.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. So --

LEG. ALDEN:

I made a motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1337, motion to table, seconded. All in favor? Opposed?  
Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

23

---

1394-02 (P) - Authorizing, empowering and directing County Parks Department to secure acoustics evaluation for Trap & Skeet Shooting Range near Southaven County Park in Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven (Fields). Commissioner, where are we on Suffolk trap and skeet, to do we have both consultants with signed contracts and appointments ready to go?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

Mr. Peticore, the Operational Environmental Consultant will be with us I believe Tuesday morning at eight o'clock for the beginning of his research. As of earlier this week, we were still trying to resolve insurance issues or get a waiver from Risk Management for an insurance issue involving the sound consultant, Mr. Hanson. I could call before I leave today and let you know whether or not that was resolved. The sound consultant was unable to obtain the insurance that Insurance & Risk was requiring and we were trying to square that issue away as of Tuesday, I could check before I leave whether or not that's been resolved.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Aren't we past the date, though, that we were supposed to have that in place?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

That's true, but we can't control the ability of a vendor to obtain insurance nor can we control the market place as far as that goes, so we deal with it as best we can.

With respect to Mr. Hanson and his qualifications, our feeling within the department was that he's clearly the most qualified and that he had the background and the qualifications to provide the service. The type of insurance which was at issue was essentially professional insurance, the type that is the underlying security that the County would go to in the event recommendations are utilized and there's subsequently a problem. I will find out before I leave today whether or not that issue was resolved.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'll make a motion to table this one more time then. So motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1397-02 (P) - To establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket, New York (Fisher).

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:

This resolution, again, I would recommend that this be tabled pending clarification of the plans by Three Village Community Youth Services. They're in the process now of trying to prepare a site plan for a submittal to CEQ and all the other necessary steps.

24

---

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion to table.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1402-02 (P) - Authorizing, empowering and directing County Parks Department to secure environmental evaluation for Trap & Skeet Shooting Range near Southaven County Park in Yaphank, Town of

Brookhaven (Fields). I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1501-02 - Establishing a committee to study common sense  
alternative funding mechanisms for the Suffolk County Parks Department  
(Fields). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
All in favor?

LEG. ALDEN:  
On the motion. I'm just going to repeat one comment that I made last  
time, that I still believe that this could be done as a subcommittee  
or the work can be done right here in the Parks Committee, and I'm not  
real sure that we need a separate committee to study this. But also,  
if we do move forward with this, there's a lack of any financial or  
management type of representation on this committee. So I would just  
point that out to the sponsor, that that might be something that you  
want to do either in the future or amend this at some point in time if  
it does pass.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
Explain what you mean about that?

LEG. ALDEN:  
If you're looking for alternative funding mechanisms, I would think  
that you'd have somebody that has either some municipal tax  
experience, consulting in alternative financing, alternative  
structures, somebody that's got that corporate type of background or  
financial, somebody from a budget office or something of that nature  
would be, as far as I'm concerned --

LEG. CARPENTER:  
(Inaudible).

---

LEG. ALDEN:  
Right, there's nobody on the money side of it or on the absolute  
management side of it. How do other municipalities manage and, you  
know, you would need somebody that is familiar with other types of  
set-ups, whether they be a park trusteeship, there's many different

types of ways to set up a municipal parks department similar to the way we have authorities or parks -- you know, different things like that. So the committee as it's going to be established really lacks people on the money side or on the management side.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All right. I'll make a money motion to table. With the input that you've given me, maybe we can talk further and you can make some other suggestions and I can submit a corrected copy with those additions.

LEG. ALDEN:

I am not necessarily saying that, you know, you have to end this or not go forward with it, but at some point in time those are some good people that you would want you to include. So I will second your motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1543-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds for resurfacing of Smith Point County Park Parking Facility (Towle).

LEG. TOWLE:

Legislator Fields, I won't start from the beginning, I'll start where I left off if that's okay with you. The bottom line is despite the fact that we're going to do a multi-year, multi-dollar Capital Program for the park, there's no reason that the fifty plus thousand visitors that use Smith Point Park and pay what I believe to be a very large fee have to be subjected to the horrendous conditions of the parking lot.

The Department of Public Works did multiple options as far as what could be done with the parking lot, this was kind of middle of the road, upper road. It's a \$750,000 expense. The review was done on the parking lot when we had a resolution before us a couple months back from the telecommunications company that wanted to put equipment down underneath the parking lot area in the northwest corner. There was some talk between the Executive's office and my office about possibly dedicated the money that the County received to the General Fund to pay for this parking lot improvement or to have the vendor do it themselves. They just felt that that was a little complicated and would have set a precedent and instead they were supportive of going along with a Capital Program resolution which I filed and I know your committee has tabled because of some concerns that some of the members have.

I was here on the other resolution so I thought I would stay. The sooner we can get this resolution approved the sooner we can try to move forward with some work. I mean, we are already in the season and

---

it would be my hope to try to do the parking lot in phases but to get it done as quickly as possible.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So you're saying then that you'd like this passed but you'd like us to do it in phases. And I think the argument we had was there's an erosion problem and we're very concerned about the building being moved and perhaps until that's solved we shouldn't be doing anything.

LEG. TOWLE:

Well, if I could just comment on that; it's obviously your committee, I'll defer to whatever you want to do. There are multiple things that can be done with the parking lot. The complete restructuring of the parking lot is going to most likely need to be done, I would think, although I'm not an engineer, once we make some decision as to where the building is going to be moved. There's been price tags put on this anywhere from four to five million to as much as 25 million depending on who you've talked to. I spoke to Legislator Foley briefly this morning, I've had conversations with Congressman Grucci about possibly securing some Federal funds, but at best case scenario we're five, six, seven years away. And we've all dealt with Capital Programs; we sat here this morning and talked about how contracts take almost a year.

You know, this is not something that's going to happen immediately and unfortunately the facility is operating, though, currently. There were multiple options that could be taken on repairing the parking lot. This one took care of the draining, which was going to have to be done regardless of what we do with the building, it also took care of a surface coat on the parking lot and the striping along with some other structural drainage issues along the outskirts of the parking lot because it was expanded some years back. I felt it was the safest option that really would not have any impact on the operation of the facility.

When I say phases, the actual paving of the parking lot. If we were to approve this resolution sooner we would have avoided the -- you know, now that we're almost into the season now that Memorial Day passed and could have tried to have gotten the project all in one shot. But I imagine they would do the parking lot in sections, starting on the west end and working themselves east to finish the project. But the longer we table the bill the longer it's going to take to get this project done, obviously.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The major concern that I raised at the last meeting still holds true today. The fact of the matter is this project is a comprehensive one to repave the whole parking lot for that amount of money. And we will by the end of this year have a revised master plan as to where we stand with the whole park. So the concern that I have is that by approving a resolution for 750 which is monies for the whole parking lot, we could in a point in the future

27

---

decide as a Legislature to move the facility back, then we'd have to literally rip up a good part of the parking area where we could be placing the pavilion.

If there is a problem with asphalt in certain parts of the parking lot, then on an interim basis, and I emphasize on an interim basis, there's nothing stopping either the Parks Department or the Public Works Department from taking care of those areas that are in most immediate need of attention as opposed to doing one lift for the whole parking area.

In addition to that, part of the revisions that are being reviewed by the consultant in that the Commissioner and I as the Legislator who represents the park, along with others who are interested in the park such as Legislator Towle, is to look at the issue, the interesting recreational issue of whether or not we should also be offering residents of Suffolk County not just an ocean beach, but that area lends itself quite nicely to offering a bay beach. And if we want to offer a bay beach, then that's going to impact part of the area that's being proposed to be paved.

So I would ask my colleagues, and with all due respect to Legislator Towle who has -- and I'll say it for the record, has had an active interest to his credit for Smith Point. But the fact of the matter is I want to -- I, others who are going to look at this in a procedural point of view, let's see what the revised master plan is. But even in the interim, if there is an immediate need of asphalt being broken up, well then that can be done, yes, as a patch job but that can be done at least on a temporary basis. Then by this time next year I think we'd have some better understanding of where we're going to move with the whole beach, with the whole park. But I think at this point it's a little premature and we don't know what we're going to do with the pavilion.

And again, if there's areas that need to be fixed from an asphalt point of view, then that could be done on a temporary basis, but I would not want to do the whole lot and then revisit the issue of breaking up part of it in order to create a bay beach, number one, and number two, to have the pavilion moved back. So I would ask that we



table it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All right. Legislator Lindsay, did you want to say something?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Then --

LEG. TOWLE:

Legislator Fields, if I may?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah.

28

---

LEG. TOWLE:

You know, with all due respect, I do disagree with Legislator Foley on a couple points. Having initially sponsored the resolution for the first master plan at Smith Point, I'm well aware of there are requests for the bay beach. It really is not going to effect the parking lot because there are specific areas that were designated by Kash and Associates, the original firm that we hired. This report may be done by the end of the year, that is very likely, I would agree with Legislator Foley on that; it may take a little longer, but I think the end of year is a safe assumption.

To go in and do a patch job at a facility that's visited by 55,000 people a year and who pay in some instances five to \$8 dollars to park at this facility since the Legislature has not saw fit to reduce those fees, to me is really unacceptable and inexcusable that we would allow one of our park facilities to stay that way. There really is a major drainage problem, the parking lot was flooded and has been flooded on pretty regular occasions, as I imagine the Commissioner can attest to. The parking lot is pretty broken up and cracked throughout it, there is grass and weeds, the parking lot needs to be desperately striped regardless if we went in and did a patching job. And all of those things would cost money and this was the most reasonable and economical plan regardless if we moved the building, because it is a 4,000 -- for those members that have not been there -- a 4,000 lot parking lot and the building would take up very small portion of that parking lot in percentage if it was to be moved to it at all. Which, you know, although I agree with Legislator Foley that it's something we seriously need to look at and I would support, I don't think we're anywhere near that happening. And I think that is a six or seven year at least at a minimum project away to move the building by the time we're said and done

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Why don't we table it this time around and invite DPW here for the next meeting to give us their response about what it would take, what the plan is, how it would be, and maybe even show us some maps so that we could better --

LEG. TOWLE:

If I'm not mistaken, didn't -- and I'm only going by what I was told by my staff, but the first time it was tabled I was told that's what you needed to do and my understanding is that DPW came to your last meeting.

MR. DOYLE:

According to the County Executive's Office, yes.

LEG. TOWLE:

Yeah, it's my understanding that Bill Shannon was at your meeting.

LEG. LINDSAY:

He didn't testify when he was here.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

He must have --

29

---

LEG. TOWLE:

Did you ask -- I mean, obviously I wasn't -- I wasn't here.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I did not give a special invitation to them, so I will do that.

LEG. TOWLE:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And we'll just -- it's what, two weeks for the next meeting? And we have already begun the beach season so, you know, I don't think it's going to make that much of a difference for two weeks. But that's what we'll do, we'll ask them to come to the next meeting and give us an overview of it and then I think we'd make a more educated decision. Motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

## INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1561-02 (P) - Reappointing William Macchione as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 5) (Tonna). Is he here? I'll make a motion to table and have him at the next meeting. IR 1563 -- motion to table.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes, I just want to ask a question. Generally with the reappointments, unless they've been invited to be here; were they invited to be here?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Were they?

MS. SKIBER:

No. So I will make --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Because generally with the appointments we just pass them. These are trustees, there are two of them that have been on the board --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'll make the invitation for two weeks from now and then they can --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well, this is my point.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, they're holdovers anyway, right?

LEG. CARPENTER:

30

---

Right. But when they're reappointments, unless there's some pressing reason for bringing them down, the policy has been to approve the reappointments. So I would like to make a motion to approve, these are both -- there are two of them, they're both sitting trustees that have served the Vanderbilt Museum well and I think it's an oversight in why they're appointments weren't done quicker than they were.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, this discussion has come up in many of the committees that I've been in and I think one of the points that I made was that I have not had an opportunity to meet these people and the newer Legislators that were elected either when I was or after I was have not had an opportunity to meet them and this gives us that quick opportunity. So I would like to just table this then for one more time and in two weeks if they cannot be here I will make a motion to move it out of

the committee, but I'd like to make a motion to table this one.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Could I just -- are these paid positions?

LEG. CARPENTER:

No, they're volunteers.

LEG. ALDEN:

Similar to the senior citizens.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And quite frankly, they're -- if I could, through the Chair -- they're really expected to do a bit of fund-raising and I know that one of them in particular, Trustee Seides, has been very helpful in doing just that in helping with at least one event that I'm aware of.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, let's see what happens with the tabling. I'll make a motion to table. Do we have a second? Okay, motion to approve?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1563-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds for the purchase of a show mobile for the Parks Department (Carpenter).

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

31

---

All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ALDEN:

Just on the motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

Yes, you can use it. If it goes in your district you can use it, too.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
We only have one.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Just for the record, how much is this for, the purchase of this vehicle?

LEG. CARPENTER:  
A hundred thousand.

MR. SABATINO:  
One hundred thousand.

LEG. ALDEN:  
And we have one and what's the plans for the one that we have right now?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
We would plan to utilize it as long as we consider it to be safe to use. It's a 1994 Winger, a show mobile. It's the unit that at the end of each season you have to take a hard look at from an engineering standpoint to determine whether or not it's still suitable and safe for use. But assuming that this moves forward and we're able to acquire a new unit, we would attempt to keep the old one on the road if we consider it to be safe. We are committed to using the existing one through the remainder of the season. If it's not clear we'll have a new one, then at the end of the season we'd have to take a hard look at both the show mobile itself which has been pegged many times and the substructure and the framing and make sure that we believe it's safe for use.

LEG. ALDEN:  
How much usage do you actually get out of this?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
It's used constantly during in-season months. If you want hard statistics, that's something I could provide for you.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Just, you know, when you're going to put the report together just, you know, give me an idea of like who's asking for it and things like that, whether they're community groups, whether it's towns or you know whether it's County-wide type of groups.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
Sure. I could tell you that it's wide variety groups ranging from chambers of commerce and like organizations and they do come from throughout the County. The County is huge, obviously, and -- I'm sorry?

---

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Campers use it too.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
Campers, we use them at our own events for camping, things of that nature. And it's a big County so, you know, it's towed from Sag Harbor into Huntington and all over the place.

LEG. ALDEN:  
And just one other quick question. What's the offset for this?

MR. SABATINO:  
It's a \$5 million infrastructure account.

LEG. ALDEN:  
What would that impact then?

MR. SABATINO:  
That's the account that we in the Legislature create each year for just general infrastructure improvements. So this way during the course of the year as projects come up you don't have to draw down from specific programs which has generated controversy. This is like the catchall \$5 million. We're down to about a million two or a million five I think in terms of what's still left for the offset.

LEG. ALDEN:  
And that's a one year budget, Paul?

MR. SABATINO:  
We do that one year at a time. So like each year we generally put \$5 million into a general account.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
Did you mention that there's a conflict often times in trying to get the show mobile?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
Well, any time in a County this large or if you have one unit available, inevitably there are going to be days in which more than one group requests it. I recall that it was a year ago this week at Ducks Unlimited Family Day at Smithers which is a big event for the department, the show mobile had been previously committed and we were unable to use it for our own event. So yeah, we do have some conflicts from time to time and we'll follow up and provide the information that Legislator Alden requested to all the members of the committee so that you have a fair idea of who's been using the show mobile unit.



CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?  
Approved.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm opposed.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

33

---

Approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-0 Opposed: Legislator Alden).  
1582-02 (P) - Reappointing Bertram E. Seides as a member of the  
Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 6) (Towle).

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1587 we've already approved.

1595-02 (P) - Extending duration of Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board  
(Crecca).

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion to approve that.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

LEG. FOLEY:

Cosponsor.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1644-02 (P) - A Local Law to establish a code of conduct for sports  
and recreational activities on Suffolk County Property (Fields). I'll  
make a motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1654-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program by appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of heavy equipment for County parks (CP 7011)(County Executive).

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Motion.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Second the motion. But on the motion, Madam Chair. Commissioner, what heavy equipment? There's no backup.

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
The resolution would appropriate funding we intend to use to acquire a front-end loader, a beach surf rake and light towers.

34

---

LEG. FOLEY:  
What was the last item, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER SCULLY:  
Night towers for our nighttime activities.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Thank you. Okay, the vote. Can we have the vote, Madam Chair? There is a motion and a second, but we have to vote.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:  
All in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

Motion to adjourn.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Second.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 2:41 P.M.\*)

Legislator Ginny Fields, Chairperson  
Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically

35